

BATTLE OF ISLAND MOUND STATE HISTORIC SITE

PREAMBLE & MISSION STATEMENT

April 2024

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:

The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 allowed settlers to determine by referendum whether their territories would enter the Union as a slave or as a free state. This federal legislation replaced the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which declared all land north of the 36°30' N parallel within the Louisiana Purchase would be free of slavery.

Many Missourians feared having additional Free states along its border. Animosity over Kansas' status led to direct violence, even massacres, and near open warfare in western Missouri and eastern Kansas from 1855 until Kansas was declared a free state in January 1861, three months before the first shells exploded over Ft. Sumter.

In 1862, the Missouri-Kansas border was the scene of frequent raids and skirmishes between pro-Confederate rebels and Union forces. In August 1862, U.S. Senator and notorious Kansas Jayhawker Jim Lane began recruiting Black soldiers to join his Kansas forces before other federal efforts.

Many of the Black soldiers were escaped enslaved people who had fled to Kansas from Missouri and Arkansas to find freedom. Some were “stolen” in raids led by Lane or other Jayhawk leaders during the border wars between Kansas and Missouri. Others were freedmen who had moved to Kansas to find a better life. By August 1862, the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry had grown to about 500 soldiers – enrolled, uniformed, armed and trained into a disciplined unit and ready for action.

In October 1862, 240 soldiers and 12 officers of the Kansas regiment were directed “to proceed to a point on the Osage, Bates County, Missouri, and there break up a gang of Bushwackers.” Using the Fort Scott Road, the troops traveled from their camp at Fort Lincoln, Kansas, and arrived in Bates County on October 27, 1862. Upon arrival, they commandeered the home of local Southern sympathizers Enoch and Christiana Toothman as the troops' headquarters. The troops camped in the yard, used the rails of the fence to build breastworks and rechristened the farmstead “Fort Africa.”

During the next two days, the Black soldiers skirmished with local rebels. On October 29, a detachment of about 30 Black troops engaged the Bushwhackers as a diversion while a foraging party searched for salt and cornmeal. Once the troops returned to the camp, the rebels set fire to the tallgrass prairie, forcing the Kansas troops to set a backfire to prevent flames from reaching Fort Africa. Using the smoke as cover, the rebels fired at the troops then withdrew, hoping the Kansas troops would pursue them.

A party of eight Black soldiers went to locate the rebel position. Venturing farther from camp than ordered, the troops traveled out of sight behind a low hill known as Island Mound. A party of about 20 men sent to locate the first squad joined them and moved farther away from camp. The rebels had successfully lured the Kansas troops into a trap.

About 130 rebel horsemen emerged from the woods bordering the Marias-des-Cygnés River, forcing the Black detachment to retreat toward Island Mound. The rebel horsemen caught them before they could reach shelter in a ravine, and the battle began. On the southern slope of Island Mound, with the prairie on fire all around them, the two groups engaged in hand-to-hand battle. The rebel horsemen carried shotguns, pistols, and sabers and they outnumbered the Black troops 6 to 1. The Black soldiers fought back fiercely, using their bayonets and rifle butts.

When reinforcements arrived from Fort Africa, the rebel horsemen retreated over the top of Island Mound. At the end of the battle, the Kansas regiment had 19 casualties: 8 killed and 11 wounded. Rebel losses were likely similar. The day after the battle, Union reinforcements arrived and descended on Hog Island. They found that the rebels had pulled out, leaving supplies and livestock behind.

News about the battle spread throughout the country. The reports were notable not only because it was the first time Black soldiers engaged in combat during the Civil War, but because of the regiment's success against a larger opponent and the ferocity that they showed that day. Even Southerners praised the Black troops with rebel Bill Turman of Butler being quoted in *The New York Times* that the Black soldiers "fought like tigers."

The bravery demonstrated during the battle refuted claims that Black soldiers lacked the courage or ability to engage in combat. The Black soldiers' bravery also paved the way for additional African American regiments. By the end of the Civil War, about 180,000 Black men served in the U.S. Army and almost 18,000 served in the Navy.

On January 13, 1863, less than two weeks after the Emancipation Proclamation took effect, the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry became the fifth African American regiment mustered into Federal service – three months after they won their first battle. Throughout the war, the infantry regiment saw extensive action, fighting in 16 battles and numerous skirmishes. They mustered out of service on Oct. 1, 1865.

This site contains 40 acres and includes the probable site of the Toothman Farm where the First Kansas Colored Volunteers barricaded themselves into what they dubbed "Fort Africa." The site where the battle itself took place is about ½ mile south of the present acreage.

MISSION STATEMENT:

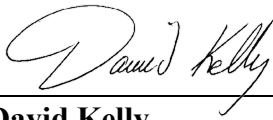
The mission of Battle of Island Mound State Historic Site is to preserve and interpret the American Civil War Battle of Island Mound with emphasis on the Missouri-Kansas "border war" and the effect that this battle had upon African American military inclusion during the Civil War; its battlefield and any archaeological remains of the Toothman Farm; and to provide appropriate and compatible memorial and recreational opportunities.

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STATE HISTORIC SITE**

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April 2024

APPROVED BY:



David Kelly
Director, Missouri State Parks

06/04/24

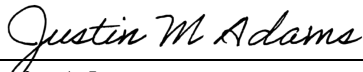
Date



Terry Bruns
Program Director, Planning and Development

05/21/2024

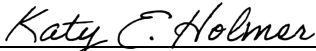
Date



Justin Adams
Regional Director, Ozarks Region

04/26/2024

Date



Katy Holmer
Deputy Regional Director, Ozarks Region

04/29/24

Date



Kenny Neal
Superintendent

04/26/2024

Date

BATTLE OF ISLAND MOUND STATE HISTORIC SITE

CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

April 2024

Location: Bates County
Established: 2008
Size: 40 Acres

MISSION STATEMENT

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INTRODUCTION

Located in west central Bates County, seven miles southwest of Butler, Battle of Island Mound State Historic Site preserves and interprets the first instance of African-American troops opposing forces aligned with the Confederacy in any theater of the Civil War. The First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry's success and ferocity in battle against a larger opponent, encouraged the formation of other African-American units that would field almost 200,000 black soldiers during the Civil War. The historic site encompasses the probable location of the Toothman Farm, which was commandeered by the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry on Oct. 27, 1862 and renamed "Fort Africa." The site where the battle itself took place is about ½ mile south of the site's present property. Today, the historic site includes an interpretive shelter, a vault toilet, a shelter, two wayside exhibits and the 0.6 mile Courage Trail.

SITE GOALS

- Preserve and interpret the cultural resources located within the site's boundaries;
- Provide recreational opportunities and public use facilities compatible with the site's mission, resources, and public needs; and
- Provide adequate orientation and interpretive facilities to enhance visitor experience.

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

- The Passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854
- The American Civil War
 - Missouri-Kansas Border Wars: Bushwackers and Union Jayhawkers
- The First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regimental History
 - The Battle of Island Mound

- Demonstration to the Nation of African-American troop success
- The Toothman Farm

SITE STRUCTURES

<u>Structure</u>	<u>Sqft</u>	<u>Const. Year</u>	<u>Historic</u>
Interpretive Shelter	96	2012	-
Vault Toilet	124	2012	-
Shelter	1,024	2012	-

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

Battle of Island Mound State Historic Site's development should accentuate the preservation and interpretation of the historic site's significance during the Civil War, providing visitors access to the area of the Toothman Farm, which was commandeered and fortified by the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry and renamed "Fort Africa."

1. Pave Parking Lot & Trail

The existing parking lot is to be paved to decrease maintenance expenses, improve overall safety and enhance the user experience. Likewise, the 0.6 mile Courage Trail may be paved contingent upon targeted historic site investigations.

Special Consideration

Dependent upon investigation of the Fort Scott Road and if located on site, interpretation of the road should be considered.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH GOALS

- Update and/or completion of the site's General Management Plan
- As opportunities permit, pursuing targeted investigations and documentation of the Toothman House and Fort Scott Road are necessary to provide valuable primary source evidence and new perspectives of the historic site's resources.
 - Proposed targeted research methods:
 - Archival research to try to identify location of Fort Scott Road
 - Archaeological research, including (1) additional non-invasive geophysical survey to try to determine location of Fort Scott Road (if archival research suggests it is on property), and (2) test excavations at 23BT1131 (Methodist Episcopal Church) as a potential location of Toothman Farm/Fort Africa. (previous excavation of Toothman Farm (23BT1130) did not definitively establish that location as Fort Africa or as the Toothman house)
- Investigate and document the battle site ½ mile south of the Toothman Farm, if permission/access can be obtained, through archaeological and/or metal detector survey.

Note: Due to the magnitude of proposed targeted investigations, contracted archaeological services are merited.

ACQUISITION UNITS

If offered, acquisition of adjacent property may be pursued only through willing sellers or donors. To be considered, units should enhance the mission of Missouri State Parks through one of the following categories:

- Resource preservation and protection
- Recreational access and opportunity
- Management facilitation

PROJECT PHASING

- Phase 1
 - Pave Parking Lot
 - Pave Courage Trail
 - Contingent upon targeted investigations

Cultural and natural resource clearances will be required before on-site modifications and development occur.

CONTEXTUAL PLANNING INFORMATION

Public Input

Public input is an integral part of the CDP process. The following includes input opportunities throughout the planning process:

- 1. Public Survey #1: January 11, 2023 - February 10, 2023**
 - a. n = 42
- 2. DSP Team Member Review: February 9, 2024 – March 1, 2024**
 - a. Condensed CDP Process
 - b. n = 4

CDP Team Members:

- David Kelly – Division Director
- Brian Stith – Division Deputy Director
- Laura Hendrickson – Division Deputy Director
- Justin Adams – Ozark Region Director
- Katy Holmer – Ozarks Region Deputy Director
- Kenny Neal – Historic Site Manager
- Kimberly Pedigo – Historic Site Specialist
- Ken McCarty – Natural Resource Program Director

- Dr. Mike Ohnersorgen – Cultural Resource Management Program Director
- Kim Dillon – Cultural Resource Management Section Chief
- Terry Bruns – Planning and Development Program Director
- Don Stier – Design Section Chief
- Ryan Dunwoody – Planning Section Chief
- Daniel Engler – Planner
- Rebecca Young – Outdoor Recreation Management Section Chief
- Logan Nuernberger – Trail Coordinator
- Zane Price – Real Estate Manager
- Alison Dubbert – Interpretive Resource Coordinator

APPENDIX

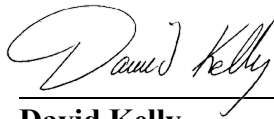
- CDP Map
- Public Survey #1 Results

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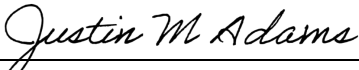
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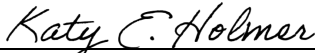
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4/29/24

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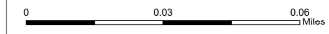
Proposed Development

- ① Pave Parking Lot & Trail
 - Courage Trail pavement contingent upon targeted historic site investigations.



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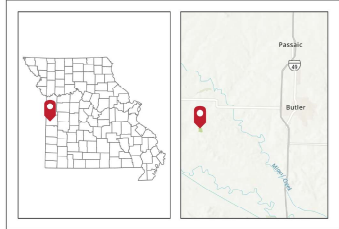
Projected Coordinate System:
NAD 1983, UTM Zone 15N
Absolute Scale: 1:750



Conceptual Development Plan Date: April 2024

Legend

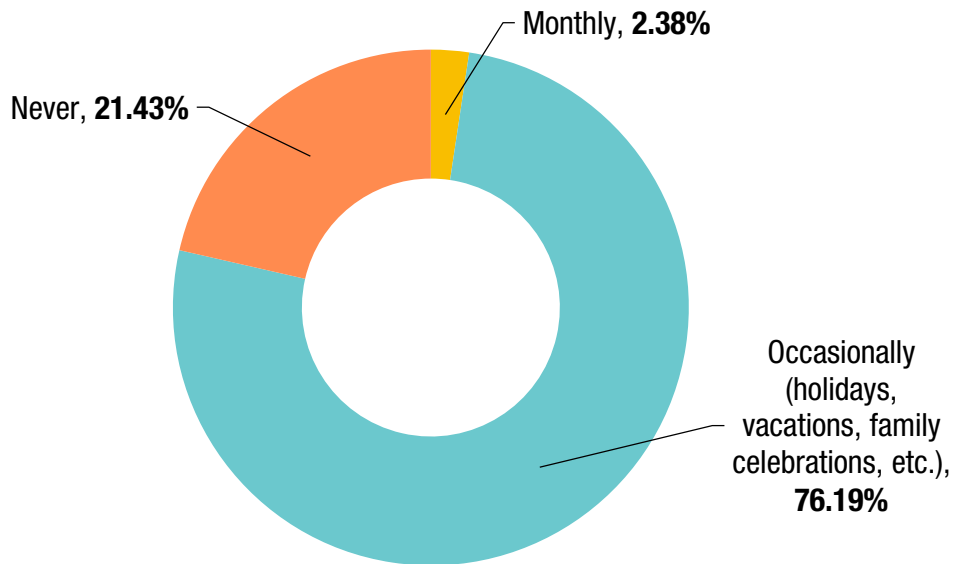
- Structure
- Day Use Area
- Interpretive Area



Although the data in this data set have been compiled by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made by the Department as to the accuracy of the data and related materials. The act of distribution shall not constitute any such warranty, and no responsibility is assumed by the Department in the use of these data or related materials.

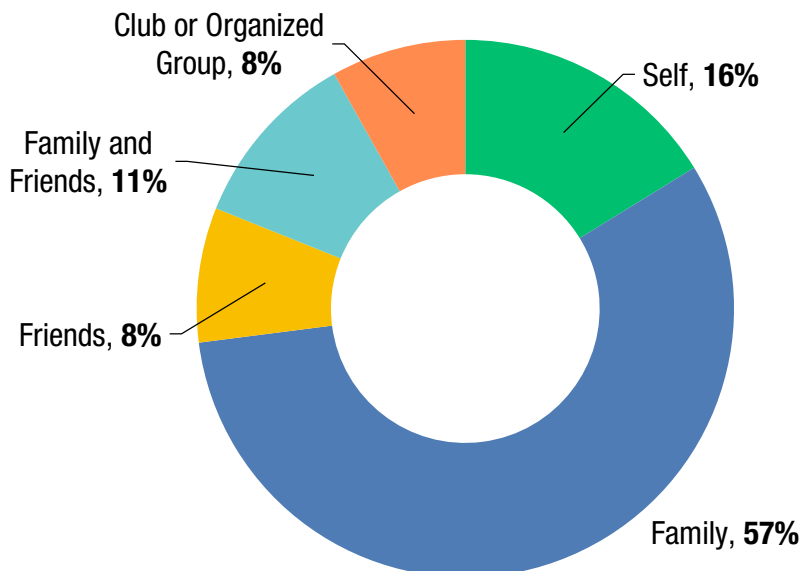
How often do you visit this park or historic site?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 0



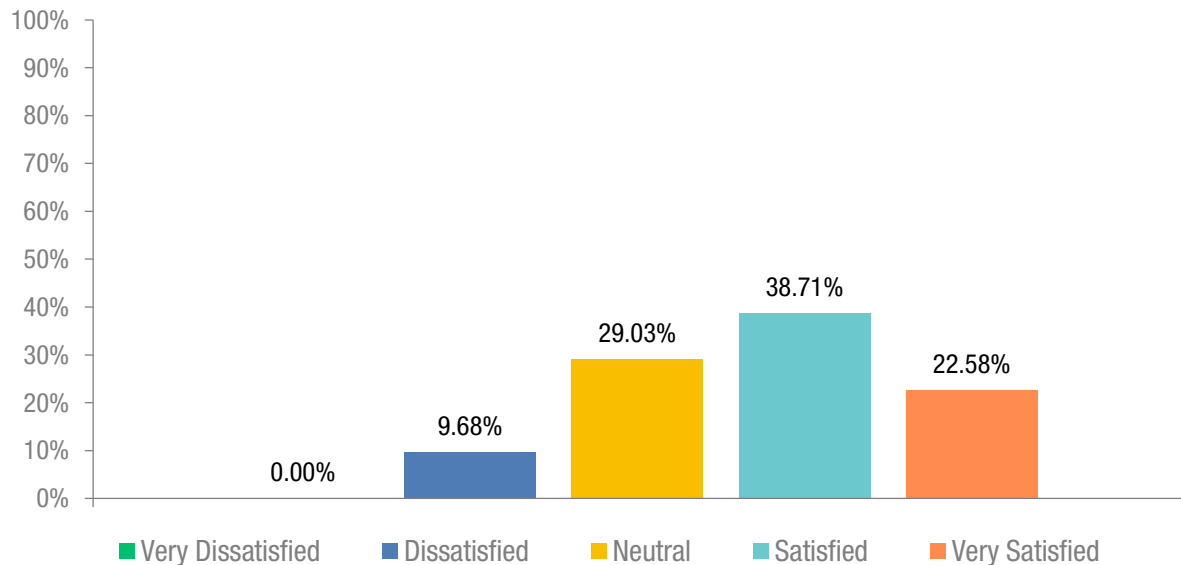
When you visit this park or historic site, who usually joins you?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 5



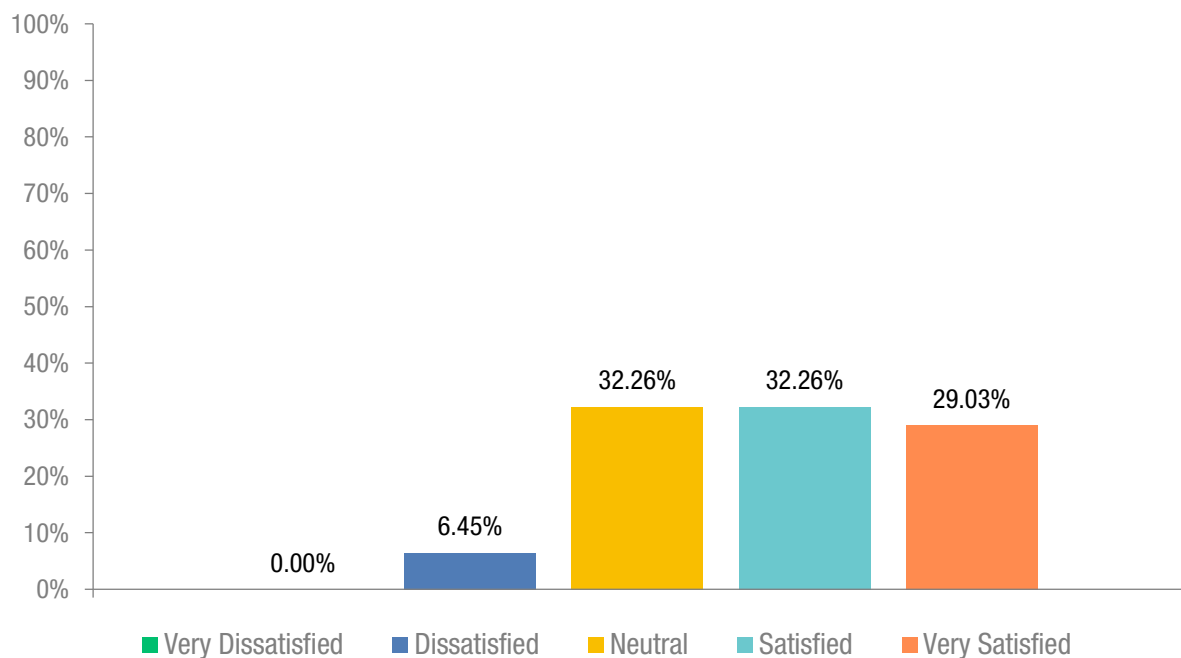
How satisfied are you with the recreational activities this park or historic site offers?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 11



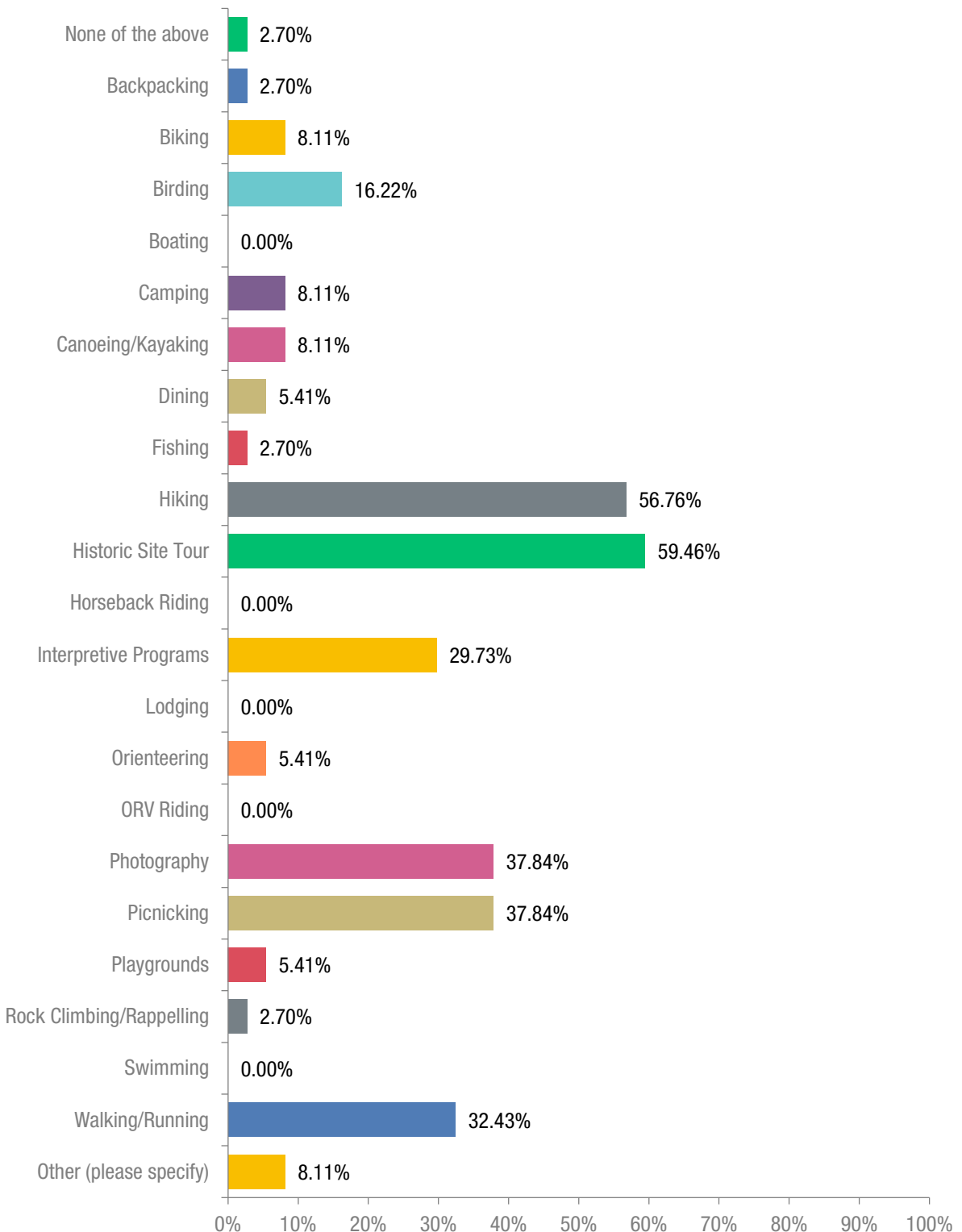
How satisfied are you with the infrastructure and amenities this park or historic site offers?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 11



Which recreational activities are you engaging in during your visit(s)?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 5



What recreational activity, if any, do you feel is missing and should be added to this park or site to enhance the visitor experience?

Answered: 13 Skipped: 29

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Playground	1/31/2023 12:37 PM
2	<p>This site is referred to as a "Civil War" site. This is neither accurate nor truthful. There was no Civil War in the USA in the 1860s. By definition, a "civil war" is a conflict between two opposing groups over control of one government. The only old Civil Wars our nation (originally our colonies) have been involved in were the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, during which times the British and the fledgling USA were both trying to gain control of the United States. You might technically include World War II when the Germans and the Japanese were also trying to take control of the USA. And you could even say that since the assassination of President Kennedy in 1962, we have been involved in another civil war, with the Democratic and Republican political parties both trying to control the U.S. government, sometimes illegally and violently, as the 06 January 2021 Capitol insurrection proves. In the case of the U.S. in the 1860s, the Confederacy did not want to control either the Union or the U.S. government — they wanted complete and sovereign separation from both. For this reason, the proper name for this bloodiest warring period of U.S. history, where families were fighting families, is either the War of Secession or the War Between the States. Both terms have been correctly used, though not as often as Civil War, and War of Secession, or Secession War if you want just a two-word name, would be the most accurate. So, how did we wind up with "Civil War"? No one knows for sure, but it seems that the media of the time thought that "War of Secession" and "War Between the States" was too long to type-set, and "Civil War" was shorter and more print-worthy, so that's what we got. And ever since then, historians, and the media in general, and even Bates County, have perpetuated this error. Interestingly, President Lincoln admitted that the Confederacy was a separate and sovereign nation just one week after the shots were fired on Fort Sumter. On that date — April 19, 1861 — Lincoln signed a one-page authorization to blockade the Confederate seaports on the Atlantic, in the Gulf of Mexico, and along the Mississippi River. According to Nathan Raab, vice president of The Raab Collection of historical documents, "Some of the president's cabinet objected (to) the move, saying it could be seen as a de facto recognition of the Confederate States of America as a sovereign nation because countries do not blockade their own ports. Lincoln, however, was less interested in the legal definitions of 'war' than in victory, and he approved it despite the objections." This blockade order authorized Lincoln's secretary of state to "affix the Seal of the United States to a Proclamation setting on foot a Blockade of the ports of the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas." The seal was affixed to the blockade order, causing the Union to declare war on the Confederacy that day, thereby beginning the Secession War. Correct the period-war reference at this site.</p>	1/18/2023 12:48 PM
3	Nature trails, mountain biking, prairie restorations	1/18/2023 10:57 AM
4	N/A	1/17/2023 8:06 AM
5	More in-person programming	1/16/2023 9:04 PM
6	More interpretive stops, virtual tour.	1/14/2023 11:07 AM
7	Update the informational resources about the battle itself. Interpretive or dioramas would be very cool.	1/12/2023 10:21 PM
8	None	1/12/2023 9:55 AM
9	none	1/12/2023 7:41 AM
10	Activities that help special education and needs children.	1/11/2023 9:18 PM
11	Small historic park, walking trails. Not much to do. Could be more given significance of the battle, first black troops in the Civil War	1/11/2023 3:59 PM
12	A few more rest areas & seating...	1/11/2023 2:48 PM
13	Guided afterhours access either by downloading app by QR scan to open interpretive /historical education to those that have no clue about this place	1/11/2023 10:10 AM

What infrastructure or amenity, if any, do you feel is missing and should be added to this park or site to enhance the visitor experience?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 30

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Don't overbuild it if you can't maintain it.	2/3/2023 9:44 AM
2	Unsure but it needs more advertising.	1/29/2023 9:21 PM
3	References to Civil War should be removed.	1/22/2023 2:44 PM
4	NOTHING	1/17/2023 8:06 AM
5	Needs to be staffed, this historic site has national significance	1/16/2023 3:59 PM
6	None	1/12/2023 9:55 AM
7	none	1/12/2023 7:41 AM
8	nothing	1/11/2023 8:12 PM
9	Some excellent historic parks in MO so this one could be developed similar to others	1/11/2023 3:59 PM
10	Video station with interpretive information.	1/11/2023 2:48 PM
11	Not a thing	1/11/2023 2:07 PM
12	Toilet /water, If adding anything please make it historically significant, as it might have been during the battle. I love the historical immersion and for kids to be able to touch and feel things of that time period would be priceless. My dad took me here as a child and it wasnt very interesting, especially for youngsters that don't read. Maybe native artifacts or period weapons or replicas. Pictures depicting the battle at a lower eye level	1/11/2023 10:10 AM

Do you have additional comments or suggestions regarding this park or historic site?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 26

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Keep this location simple. It is beautiful and peaceful.	2/3/2023 10:03 AM
2	Great historic site, wish there were more programmed events held there.	1/31/2023 7:30 PM
3	I like that it's close to home for a nice, easy hike.	1/31/2023 12:38 PM
4	Remove war references.	1/22/2023 2:46 PM
5	Please continue to hold presentations on the historical significance of Island Mound to the development of our nation and to highlight the victorious contributions of African American soldiers early on in the Civil War. It is an under told story.	1/17/2023 8:15 AM
6	NONE	1/17/2023 8:07 AM
7	It would be great to see this site added to the KSHB "one tank trips" list	1/16/2023 9:07 PM
8	Dedicated in 2012, it's been over ten years since any additional improvements have been added to the grounds. Time to seek land acquisition - site of the actual battle.	1/16/2023 4:01 PM
9	Would like to see more programming at this site, it is such a unique place, but seems to be overlooked by staff.	1/14/2023 11:08 AM
10	So glad this is a state historic site. I grew up on a farm one mile north of the site. Because this has been made an historic site, it is in a natural state. Most of the prairie that was originally here is gone because of over farming.	1/14/2023 10:40 AM
11	N/A	1/12/2023 9:55 AM
12	No. The site is beautiful and fits well into the community. Signage is sufficient for visitors.	1/12/2023 7:44 AM
13	no	1/11/2023 8:13 PM
14	NA	1/11/2023 2:49 PM
15	No	1/11/2023 2:07 PM
16	I'd love more re-enactments, uniforms, and emphasis on what hatred and division in our country has caused in the past. Could you set up a small continuous play educational movie to play? Maybe a small building to house movie and artifacts and history! History and nature is NOT boring and doesn't have to be. But when. Kids come to places like this they focus on the bright swing set and loose interest in nature and history. So...make it cool for them! Maybe period looking swings or let them touch real cannon balls or arrow heads	1/11/2023 10:19 AM

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding Missouri state parks and historic sites?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 30

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Focus state funds on fixing existing infrastructure and amenities already offered in our parks. Hire more staff to care for our public lands.	2/3/2023 10:03 AM
2	Remove Confederate monuments, change any references of "Southern Cause" to the accurate "continuation of slavery.:	1/22/2023 2:46 PM
3	I like what you've done with the Katy Trail. As the inventor of the modern U.S. mountain bike, I enjoy seeing so many mountain bikers utilizing this state park. It will be great when it makes it to Kansas City.	1/18/2023 12:50 PM
4	Maintaining and improving the natural habitat is very important; state parks and historic sites should be models of what well-maintained natural spaces should be like. This is especially important with respect to management of invasive species and nurturing of native species. It is embarrassing and shameful to visit a state park or historic site and see the natural spaces dominated by invasive species.	1/18/2023 11:02 AM
5	NONE	1/17/2023 8:07 AM
6	N/A	1/12/2023 9:55 AM
7	Please maintain the integrity of our history and allow our stories and sites to remain as they are. Add to the stories and interpretations, but do not take away from them.	1/12/2023 7:44 AM
8	I would absolutely love to be apart of conceptual development plans, or CDPs development at each state park and historic site. CDPs support the mission.	1/11/2023 9:20 PM
9	keep up the good work	1/11/2023 8:13 PM
10	NA	1/11/2023 2:49 PM
11	No	1/11/2023 2:07 PM
12	More information on the flora and fauna you may see in MO. What did people eat? How did they live. Please STOP putting concrete and jungle gyms on these places! Preserve history and allow people to immerse themselves in the history and beauty of the place. If I see anymore dog crap and litter in these parks I'm going to go insane.	1/11/2023 10:19 AM

What is your 5-digit ZIP code?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 12

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Test	2/8/2023 4:40 PM
2	64779	2/5/2023 8:12 AM
3	64762	2/3/2023 10:04 AM
4	63965	2/3/2023 7:18 AM
5	64093	1/31/2023 7:31 PM
6	64722	1/31/2023 12:38 PM
7	64770	1/29/2023 9:22 PM
8	64133	1/22/2023 2:46 PM
9	64730	1/18/2023 12:50 PM
10	64037	1/18/2023 11:02 AM
11	64134	1/17/2023 8:15 AM
12	64134	1/17/2023 8:07 AM
13	64134	1/16/2023 9:07 PM
14	63552	1/16/2023 4:02 PM
15	64093	1/14/2023 11:09 AM
16	64088	1/14/2023 10:40 AM
17	63123	1/13/2023 7:53 PM
18	64701	1/12/2023 10:21 PM
19	63033	1/12/2023 11:00 AM
20	63301	1/12/2023 9:55 AM
21	64720	1/12/2023 7:44 AM
22	65650	1/11/2023 9:21 PM
23	63136	1/11/2023 8:13 PM
24	65613	1/11/2023 4:00 PM
25	64012	1/11/2023 2:49 PM
26	64730	1/11/2023 2:39 PM
27	65101	1/11/2023 2:07 PM
28	64079	1/11/2023 12:31 PM
29	65340	1/11/2023 12:06 PM
30	64772	1/11/2023 10:19 AM